

# KNOWSLEY Place News

BUSINESS HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND KNOWSLEY

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ISSUE 3

Summer 2018



## Major funding boost for Prescot and Shakespeare North Playhouse

A funding package totalling approximately £13.5 million has been approved to support the construction of the Shakespeare North Playhouse and major upgrades to Prescot train station and other transport connections in the town centre.

The funding, approved by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, has been allocated from its Single Investment Fund which is earmarked for key growth projects across the City Region.

## PROSPERO PLACE



KNOWSLEY COUNCIL SHAKESPEARE NORTH

### Name chosen for soon to be famous address

Following a competition and public vote, with more than 1,400 people taking part, a name has now been chosen for the street on which the new Shakespeare North Playhouse will sit.

Prospero Place was suggested by not one, or two but three Knowsley residents and received more than 43% of votes from a shortlist of six potential names!

Knowsley one of the best places in the UK to send your child to nursery

Knowsley is one of the best places in the country to send your child to nursery, according to new data released by Ofsted.

The findings show 22 childcare providers have been rated as 'outstanding' with a further 77 rated as 'good'. Across England as a whole, only 22% of nurseries are considered outstanding by Ofsted - but in Knowsley that figure is 41%.

This is fantastic news for local families and those with babies and young children who may be considering a move to Knowsley.





## New Prescott restaurant smashes crowdfunding target

Pinion Bistro, a new restaurant in Prescott, is set to open to the public in the coming weeks thanks to an ambitious crowdfunding campaign. Gary Usher, the renowned chef and entrepreneur, set the target to raise £50,000 in 24 hours to kick start the launch of his new venture in Prescott – which will be the 5th restaurant in his Elite Bistros portfolio.

The campaign, which received support from celebrities including Michel Roux Jnr, reached its original target in less than an hour and went on to raise more than £86,000. The campaign was supported by 1,193 people who pledged their support for this new venture.

Renovation work is already underway on the premises on Eccleston Street in Prescott with plans to have the restaurant up and running by the end of the summer.

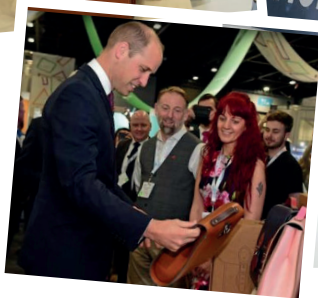
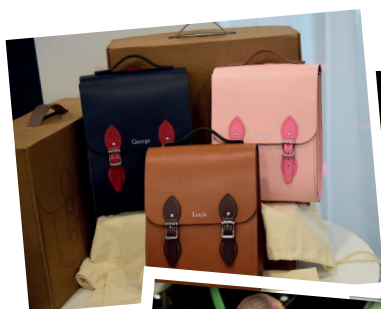


# KNOWSLEY BUSINESSES MEET PRINCE WILLIAM



Two Knowsley businesses got the chance to meet Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, on his recent visit to the International Business Festival. In the region for only one day, the Duke met with Jamie Clarke of Clarke Energy and Keith & Gail Hanshaw from the Leather Satchel Company.

Keith presented the Duke with three bespoke 'Mini Windsor' satchels for his children – each of which had been personalised with their names. Prince William was thrilled with the gift remarking that “**Charlotte will be obsessed with that – I’ll never be able to get it off her!**”



## And following hot on the heels of Pinion...

Established Prescott business Albion Bakehouse is also taking on its own crowdfunding initiative to fund its newest venture **Down in Albion** which they hope to open up in the town.

And two more exciting new eateries have also been announced for Prescott. Street food restaurant **The Kingsmen** will take over the former Red Lion Pub with **Urbano Chiringuito** opening up a Balearic Bar and Charcuterie on Eccleston Street.



# KNOWSLEY TO BE SHOWCASED AT MIPIM UK

Knowsley will showcase its assets and opportunities, for the fifth year running, at MIPIM UK in London in October 2018.

This year Knowsley will be taking a larger, more prominent exhibition space, in partnership with the Liverpool City Region. The dual branded stand will provide Knowsley with an even greater platform to profile its key development priorities and major projects.

Previous MIPIM UK conferences have been incredibly successful for Knowsley in positioning itself as a key destination for investment and growth in the UK.

Over the years the Knowsley presence has evolved with a wide variety of events, presentations and

launches and this year promises to be no different.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. Please contact Paul Morris for more information - [paul.morris@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:paul.morris@knowsley.gov.uk) / 0151 443 5802.



## New retail names sign up in Kirkby



Two major brands have agreed deals to open up new stores in the new-look Kirkby town centre.

Regeneration specialist St. Modwen has secured Home Bargains and Kentucky Fried Chicken to join anchor foodstore, Morrisons.

The 110,000 sq ft extension of Kirkby Town Centre comprises new shops including a new food store and petrol filling station, improved pedestrian links, car parking, new public realm and landscaping.

Paul Batho, Development Director for St. Modwen, said:

**"We are really pleased to be able to announce these additions to the scheme which is testament to Kirkby's strong draw and the quality of the scheme that has been designed.**

**"With Morrisons, Home Bargains and KFC on board we are looking to create an attractive mix of retail brands that complement each other and the current offering within the town centre.**

**"A successful, local and national brand, T.J. Morris is the largest employer on Merseyside and is the largest independent grocer in the country. We're really pleased to announce its commitment to Kirkby where new jobs will be created.**

**"Home Bargains remains a firm favourite within Kirkby and I'm sure the new-look, larger scale store will be received extremely well."**



# New Tiger Trail at Knowsley Safari



The award winning Knowsley Safari has now unveiled its latest attraction – a new £1.4 million Tiger Trail. The facility, which has been under development for more than a year, allows visitors to immerse themselves in the habitat of the Amur Tiger – an endangered species. The trail has been designed to create an environment in which the tigers can thrive and will enable future breeding – which will contribute to the global breeding programme for the species.

It is a great new attraction for Knowsley and another example of Knowsley Estate's continued investment into this popular visitor attraction.



## KNOWSLEY WELCOMES MARKETING LIVERPOOL

**Representatives from Marketing Liverpool were treated to a visit to Knowsley recently, as part of efforts to better market Knowsley as a key destination for visitors.**

The team took time to visit the Suites Hotel for a tour of their 5 bubble rated Spa and take a look at the newly refurbished suites. They then moved on to Knowsley Hall for lunch courtesy of Paul Macnish, Executive Head Chef. They were able to hear more about the history of the hall, its current event and accommodation offering, the exciting

plans for the new Shakespeare North Playhouse and the future attraction of Prescot as a 'must visit' town. The day was rounded off with a trip to the new Tiger Trail at Knowsley Safari.

The Marketing Liverpool team were excited to see and hear about some of Knowsley's assets and talk about exciting plans for the future. The feedback from Marketing Liverpool was really positive and they have already promoted several of the facilities and experiences in Knowsley through their digital channels.

## Knowsley businesses set to benefit from Playhouse development

**Local businesses turned out in force at a recent 'Meet the Buyer' event hosted by Knowsley Chamber and Growth Hub.**

Representatives from Kier – the construction partner for the Shakespeare North Playhouse - were on hand to provide more information about the potential opportunities for local businesses arising from this exciting project. Kier were awarded the construction contract earlier this

year and as part of that contract have committed to ensuring at least £8.9 million will be spent in Knowsley with local companies.

You can keep an eye out for future events by following @knowsleybiz or @knowsleychamber on Twitter. Any business interested in future opportunities can also register to receive the Growth Hub's Tender Alerts by emailing [business@knowsleygrowthhub.co.uk](mailto:business@knowsleygrowthhub.co.uk)



# First Foodie Friday event proves popular

People turned out in force for Huyton Village's first Foodie Friday, with over 650 visitors. The street food event was held in the town for the first time and proved to be a big hit with residents, businesses and those working in and around the village centre.

The event brings together street food, craft ales, music and family entertainment for all to enjoy.

Foodie Friday is already an established event in Stockport and won the Best Pop-up Event award at the Manchester Food & Drink Festival.

It is great news that the organisers have chosen to run this event in Knowsley and have two more planned for Huyton (20 July and 17 August - 4.30pm until 8pm).

For more information visit [www.huytonvillagefoodiefriday.co.uk](http://www.huytonvillagefoodiefriday.co.uk)



## Major mixed use development gets planning green light

Leading Liverpool property developer, Ion, in collaboration with Bellway Homes and the Knowsley Estate has secured planning permission to create 154 new homes and develop 16 hectares of employment space at Earlsfield Park.

The 22-hectare site sits close to Junction 2 of the M57, directly south of the Knowsley Estate.

The ambitious development is proposed to sit adjacent to the existing Lord Derby Playing Fields and Oak Plantation – which will see sports facilities and open space upgraded using a significant S106 contribution to the council. There will also be a retail and

leisure offering in the form of a pub/restaurant, petrol station and a hotel. The site will be fronted by high quality landscaping and a new combined 3km pedestrian and cycle route.

The employment park is to be pitched as a ground-breaking 'hybrid' model where the demand for high-quality advanced manufacturing research and development facilities and sub-regional logistics business space can be fulfilled alongside more traditional office and workshop spaces, encircled within a semi-rural parkland setting.

The development has the potential to create over 650 jobs in the local economy, as well as over 800 construction jobs.

## Region's 'largest speculative unit in a decade' gets underway in Knowsley

More than £9 million has been secured to build what's said to be Liverpool City Region's largest speculative unit for more than a decade. The 210,000 sq ft industrial development called Venus 210 is now under construction at Knowsley Business Park.

Developer Flintrock has been awarded £5.375 million from the Chrysalis Fund along with £4.005 million from Knowsley Council for the scheme.

The project follows the success of Venus 110 – also on Knowsley Business Park, which is occupied by online retail giant Amazon.

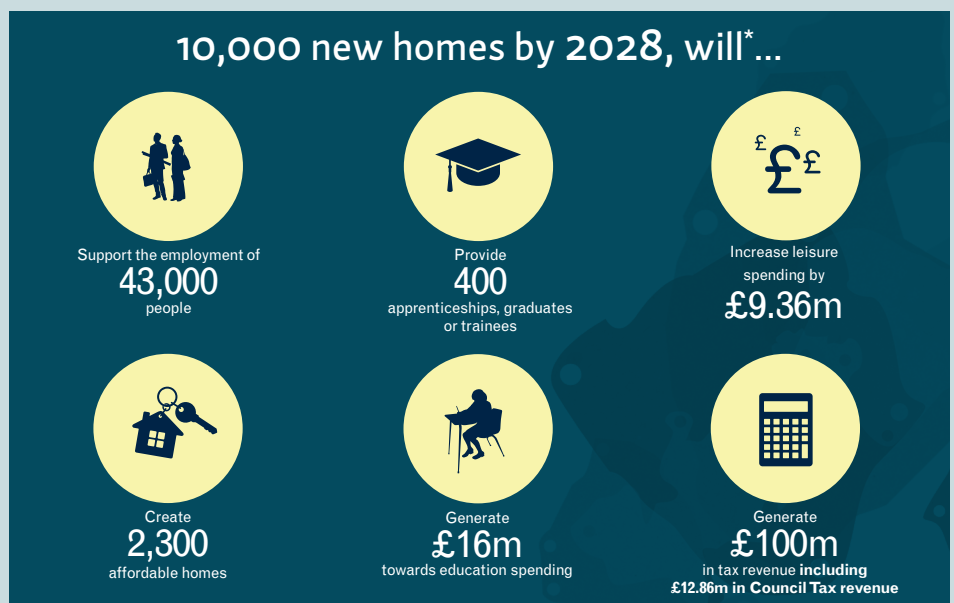
# New homes update



- **Liverpool Mutual Homes (LMH)** is working in partnership with Lane End Developments and Knowsley Council to transform a disused brownfield site in Kirkby. The development, which will be known as The Maples, will provide 170 homes, including 100 much-needed extra care apartments for older people.
- **Social housing organisation ForViva** has started work on a £1.6 million affordable housing development in Stockbridge Village. The scheme is being taken forward under the branding of ForViva group member Villages Housing Association (VHA) and will see 16 homes built by May 2019. VHA is already working in the area with a £12.4 million extra care scheme at The Withens, which will provide 90 homes for older people, due to open in early 2019.
- **Stewart Milne Homes** has now started work on its Callenders Green development in Prescot. The multi-million pound scheme will include 68 new family homes on the site of the former British Insulated Callenders Cable Factory. The first phase development of two, three, four and five bedroom properties is expected to be ready by the Autumn with all 68 homes expected by summer 2019.
- **Countryside Properties** has submitted a reserved matters planning application for 158 new homes in Kirkby. This will be the third and final phase of its work on this site, with approximately 200 properties in phases 1 and 2 currently under construction. This development marks the last of five major projects undertaken by Countryside across Knowsley in a partnership deal with the council that will see close to 600 new homes built.

## HOUSING BENEFITS!

Knowsley's ambitious housing aspirations were the topic of conversation at a recent Knowsley Ambassadors' event. The session, held at QVC, focussed on Knowsley's housing programme which is on target to create 10,000 new homes by 2028. Ambassadors heard from housing experts Countryside Properties and Bloor Homes about the buoyancy of the market currently. Delegates were also given impressive statistics showing the potential impact these new homes will have on Knowsley.



\*According to Home Builders Federation Housing Calculator (May 2018)



# KNOWSLEY EDUCATION AWARDS 2018

## AWARDS SHINE SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION IN KNOWSLEY

Teachers, pupils, governors and leadership teams were amongst those recognised at a prestigious awards ceremony celebrating achievements across Knowsley's school community.

The Knowsley Education Awards were presented at a ceremony at Liverpool University's Leggate Theatre on 27 June. The 14 awards were given in recognition of excellent practice, as well as showcasing the talent, ambition and dedication of everyone involved in education in Knowsley.



## THE WINNERS

### Outstanding Achievement (Primary)

Niamh Roberts, St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

### Outstanding Achievement (Secondary)

Joel Thomas Cubbin, Lord Derby Academy

### Outstanding Achievement (Special)

Daniel Allan, Finch Woods Academy

### Apprentice of the Year

Rebecca Blease, Keepmoat Homes

### Innovation of the Year

Comics Youth

### Teacher of the Year

Jane Woods, Eastcroft Park Primary School

### Team of the Year

Stockbridge Village Primary School – Early Years Foundation Stage

### Senior Leadership Team of the Year

Finch Woods Academy

### Governing Body of the Year

Halewood Academy

### Outstanding Contribution to School Life

Elaine Burrows, teacher at St Mary and St Pauls CE Primary School

### Outstanding Performance of the Year

Cronton CE Primary School

### Outstanding Employer/Education Initiative of the Year

All Saints Catholic High School and Jaguar Land Rover

### Most Inspiring School of the Year (Primary)

Northwood Community Primary

### Most Inspiring School of the Year (Secondary)

Halewood Academy



## Jaguar Land Rover to invest more into Knowsley

Jaguar Land Rover has confirmed it will build the next generation Evoque and a special edition Discovery Sport at its Halewood plant.

The news is a fantastic boost for the local economy and local jobs and is testament to the organisation's commitment to Knowsley.

## Network space starts on three new units at Alchemy

Caddick has been chosen by Network Space to build three new speculatively-developed units at Alchemy Business Park (situated on Knowsley Business Park).

The 30 acre site fronting the A580 includes three self-contained units of 22,900sq ft, 35,200sq ft and 45,500sq ft which will be marketed as Element. It is hoped the development will be complete by May 2019.

Element has been supported by a £1.8 million grant from the Local Growth Fund which is part of the Liverpool City Region's Single Investment Fund.

## Trio of lettings in Huyton Village

National health retailer Holland & Barratt has announced it will be opening a new store in Huyton Village this summer. In addition, The Fragrance Shop has renewed its lease for another ten years and Knowsley Citizen's Advice Bureau has taken new space in the Village Centre.

GVA, which manages the Huyton Village scheme, says it has seen increased interest in the area as more and more local people choose to return to its high street.



## Final Tickets for the Tempest

There are still a small number of tickets available for Shakespeare's magical play, The Tempest, which will be performed in the beautiful grounds of Knowsley Hall.

The Lord Chamberlain's Men will be back for their third year in Knowsley, telling the story of The Tempest with comedy, music and dance.

You can come and see Shakespeare's classic show at Knowsley Hall on Thursday 9 August 2018 from 7.30pm to 9.45pm. You can buy tickets on [www.knowsleyhallvenue.co.uk/events/tempest-knowsley-hall/](http://www.knowsleyhallvenue.co.uk/events/tempest-knowsley-hall/)



## Award winning Knowsley retailer strengthens online presence

Fashion and accessories boutique Jessie & Co has announced a company-wide rebrand and launch of a new website.

Established originally as Jessie's Jewels in 2010 the company continues to go from strength to strength with a loyal customer base and reputation for selling high quality clothing, bags, jewellery and accessories.

Managing Director of Jessie & Co, Louise Gillespie said:

"While our storefront in Prescot remains popular with customers from across Merseyside, we are welcoming an increase in nationwide business, which comes to us through the likes of social media. Many of our clients had asked us if we'd planned to expand into online selling and e-commerce, and with that in mind, we're thrilled to officially launch [www.jessieandco.co.uk](http://www.jessieandco.co.uk) which features all of our most popular pieces and a few exclusives, too!"

## Matalan posts rise in sales and profits

Knowsley based retailer Matalan has bucked the downturn trend plaguing the high street after posting a rise in profits. The retailer recorded revenues of £259.9 million in its second quarter, up from £245.5 million. Profits also jumped from £15.5 million to £22.7 million in the same 13-week period.

Matalan said its 227 stores were also "performing very well". It has renovated 24 of them and plans to continue to invest in refreshing shops across its estate.

## KNOWSLEY BUSINESS AWARDS 2018

This year's Knowsley Business Awards will take place on 22 November in the Grand Marque at Knowsley Safari. The event, which has become a real highlight in the business calendar, celebrates the achievements and efforts of Knowsley businesses and business people who are all contributing to economic prosperity in the area.

Sponsorship packages and tickets are now available. Visit [www.knowsleybusinessawards.com](http://www.knowsleybusinessawards.com) for more information. Book your place soon to make sure you don't miss out!